



# HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

Representative Carlos Lopez – Cantera, Majority Leader

# SNAP SHOT

## ***Updates to House Court Reform Proposal***

### **Supreme Court Structure**

- Retains a single Florida Supreme Court.
- Expands the justices on the Florida Supreme Court from seven to ten, with five justices permanently assigned to a civil division and five justices permanently assigned to a criminal division.
- The Governor appoints a Chief Justice for each division, with the overall administrative responsibilities for the judicial branch in the position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida rotating between the chief justices of the civil and criminal divisions on a four-year basis.

### **Judicial Selection, Evaluation, and Retention**

- Leaves the JNC in the Florida Constitution but continues to pursue the proposed statutory reforms to its composition and operation.
- Allows Senate confirmation of Supreme Court justices. If the Senate fails to vote on the nomination within 90 days, the judicial appointment would be automatically confirmed.
- Leaves the current law on merit retention unchanged.

### **Court Authority and Operations**

- Expands the ability of each division of the Supreme Court to consider appeals by removing the jurisdictional prerequisite that an express and direct conflict exist between the DCAs or the Supreme Court on the same question of law.
- Provides the House of Representatives with meaningful access to the files and records of the JQC but maintains the confidentiality of those records unless the House initiates an impeachment proceeding.
- Leaves rulemaking authority with the judicial branch. Allows the Legislature to repeal a court rule by general law that expresses the policy behind the repeal and allows the court to readopt the rule in conformance with the expressed policy.
- Provides a minimum appropriation for the courts from all revenue sources equal to 2.25% of General Revenue (FY 2010-11 funding from all revenue sources equals 1.94% of General Revenue).